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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 491
By Brooks

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor a fine and upstanding Tennessean, Dr. Charles Pinkston of Orange Mound.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those sterling families and their individual members who, through hard work, expertise and dedication, have pieced together the enduring fabrics that comprise the grand tapestry of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Charles Pinkston, of Orange Mound, is one such fine person who is deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, the 72-year-old Dr. Pinkston is a pillar of the Orange Mound community; he opened his first and only practice in dentistry at 2348 Park Avenue in 1957 and still uses the same dental chair and gentle demeanor that has had his patients returning to his care over the past 43 years; and

WHEREAS, the son, and youngest of nine children, of the noted Dr. Green Fort Pinkston, Dr. Charles Pinkston earned his medical degree in dentistry from Meharry in 1957; in

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the following September he was joined in holy matrimony to his lovely wife, Maria, and soon after opened his practice; and

WHEREAS, he bought his office site as a duplex for \$10,000 and spent \$6,000 in renovations; for several months, he and his wife lived on one side of the building while he worked on the other; and

WHEREAS, he chose Orange Mound to avoid all the competition on Beale Street, as there were no other African American dentists practicing in Orange Mound at that time. Dr. Pinkston's patients not only came from Orange Mound, but also traveled from the Binghamton, Bethel Grove, and Elliston Heights communities; and

WHEREAS, advertising his practice in church and through word of mouth, he quickly found success; his office opened for business at 8:30 a.m. and closed whenever he was finished for the day; at one time he was seeing up to thirty patients a day; and

WHEREAS, before the days of dental insurance, not everyone could afford to pay immediately upon services rendered. Dr. Pinkston would wait for the fee or would barter with people by allowing them to pay by performing odd jobs around the office; one of the most recent non-monetary exchanges for his work was accepting an old stereo, complete with an 8-track player, a turntable, and flashing lights; and

WHEREAS, back in the old days, about 60 percent of a dentist's work was making partials. While most dentists today let an off-site lab make partials, Dr. Pinkston still makes them himself and sends them to a lab to be coated in plastic; and

WHEREAS, though he mainly performs oral surgery, Dr. Charles Pinkston shares the rest of the work with his daughter, Dr. Toya Pinkston Dawson, his associate, who's been practicing for ten years; and

WHEREAS, it is not often that a man of Dr. Pinkston's stature walks among us, and it is important that we honor him for his strong character and selfless good works, also recognizing him for his life of purpose and commitment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we do hereby recognize and thank Dr. Charles Pinkston of Orange Mound for his unflagging dedication to providing expert dental care to his many patients over the years and for his outstanding service to the state of Tennessee. We extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.